Nuclear deal with Canada

2158. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is venturing out for a nuclear deal with Canada; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) India and Canada are discussing a civil nuclear cooperation agreement. The most recent round of discussion was held in Mumbai on 21-22 May, 2009.

Erection of watch tower on Katchatheevu Island

2159. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sri Lanka proposed to construct a watch tower with military presence on Katchatheevu Island where the Sri Lankan army has been harassing Tamil Nadu fishermen;

(b) if so, whether Government would urge the Sri Lankan Government to refrain from construction of watch tower;

(c) whether Government would also come forward to take initiatives for regaining of our Katchatheevu Island which was endowed to the Sri Lanka in the year 1974;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Sri Lanka has denied any plans to build a military base in Katchatheevu. The issue was raised with the Sri Lankan Government during the visit of a delegation led by Senior Advisor to Sri Lankan President, Basil Rajapaksa, on June 24, 2009. The delegation again clarified that it does not contemplate putting up any military structures at Katchatheevu.

(c) to (e) The Government of India considers its maritime boundary with Sri Lanka settled under the Agreements concluded with Sri Lanka in 1974 and 1976. Under the Agreements, the Island of Katchatheevu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line. Both these Agreements were subsequently laid before Parliament.

Bringing back the treasure of Maharaja Ranjit Singh

†2160. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.